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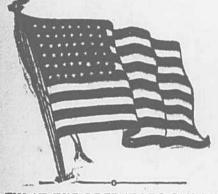
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FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 24, 1917.



## WHAT THE OPERATORS CAN DO.

NE thing the bituminous coal operators can do at their meeting in Pittsburgh next Wednesday is carefully to select a committee to confer with the authorities at Washington with an idea of finding out what the coal trade may expect in the way of car supplies from now out. If the members of this committee are chosen with a view to getting men on it who have sufficient breadth of view it is possible that they will be able to shed a whole lot of light upon the coal situation of the nation in places where only part of the story has been heard, while they are at the same time acquiring some highly important information for the interests they represent.

The members of the Transportation and Communication committee of the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense, which is composed to railroad presidents, know what is primarily responsible for the dangerpus fuel situation in the country. So does Judge Lovett, the new Priority chief. But none of these gentlemen will tell the President unless they have to. The Federal Trade commission also knows what the trouble is, but some how it did not make the case plain to Mr. Wilson, for in selecting a plan for the regulation of coal he picked the one which gives least promise of reaching the real source of the

Fixing a price at the mines is not going to put an extra punce of coal into the Chicago market next winter. As a matter of fact it is among the possibilities that by fixing the figure so low that many little operators are going to be driven out of the field there may be less coal there and in the other big centers this winter than there was last winter -and every one knows what last winter produced in the way of individual suffering and industrial interruption. Apparently the President has not given any thought to that shase of the problem. His attention has been too much occupied by the politicians who have told him that it would be a great stroke of politics for the Democratic party if he could reduce the price John Jones and William Smith raust pay for the coal they burn in their kitchens, and that the way to do this is to take advantage of the Lever bili to fix the price the producer gets so low that even the middlemen, who manipulated the market last year, will not be able to drive it up to the old figures during the winter that is to come.

The coal producers can, and if they are wise they will, see to it that the President does give some thought, serious thought, to the transportation difficulties. If he can devise a plan to make the car service equal the capacity of the mines there is a good chance that money can be made at even the low price that has been fixed. The producers assomiation should labor to bring that about. Moreover if the mines can get all the cars they need they will stand some show of keeping up with the demand. If the demand

RUFF STUFF

When the Crown Prince scans the reports of the fighting at Verdun he

carrying the joke too fer.

and won the war.

robably feels that the French are

Poor old skate; he'd lose even if the

Germans accomplished the impossible

In any other army on his record he would be helping the cook by this

If Traffic Officer Ward really has

reached the point where he is going after the women speeders he had

better carry an extra supply of hand-

of a forfeit.

man ambassador.

on Sundays hereafter.

privileges in this town.

a vacation until Monday,

For soon or late one of them is Little thing like a war is not going going to try a flow of tears in liau to interfere with the health of the

the nephew.

Between the two fate is kinder to

Lamp in the Morning Astonisher

That goes, lads, for although the M A is a professing friend of the Sal-

The County Draft board has taken

vation Army it is the official organ of the folks who own the gambling

this morning that the gambling ma-

cannot be met them will be danger that the whole govern-ment plan will collapse. Every effort should be made to prevent that, for the next development in all likelihood would be a demand for direct government operation of the mines. And if this demand comes it will come at a time in which the public would be in no mood to discuss the question on its merits.

WANTON DESTRUCTION.

FEW more fine and famous churches and other edifices dedicated to religious purposes were destroyed when the part of Saloniki which lies nearest the sea was swept by flames last Sunday. That is the way of the great war. Structures that were centuries in building, and which have figured in story and picture for centuries more. go in a few hours like the great and beautiful cathedral of St. Quentin went the other day by fire, and as other famous structures have gone by bombardment and in other ways in Belgium and northern France.

One of the greatest crimes in history was the destruction by order of the Caliph Omar of the famous Alexandrian library which at the time it was destroyed in 641 of the present era was the repository of the records of the scientific attainments of the ancients and practically all their literature. Yet it is easy to understand the mental processes which condemned this great treasure house to destruction. Omar was a wise man and a liberal himself, but he was the leader of a great body of narrow minded religious fanatics who were hard to control even in the heat of a campaign, so it is altogether probable that he did say, as he is reported to have said, when the matter of the library was referred to him for a decision, "If the writings of the Greeks agree with the Book of God they are useless, and need not be preserved; if they disagree, they are pernicious, and ought to be destroyed.'

But for the destruction of most of the cathedrals and crurches during the past three years there is not the slightest reason, not even military necessity. When they are within range of enemy guns artillerists are permitted to pot shot at them for on better purpose than to try the sighting apparatus of the guns. When they are to be left behind by a retreating force they are looted, mined and fired so that they will be useless even for dressing stations of army surgeons with those who are to come after. There is some thing monstrous about it all, and one wonders what the people of the next century will think of a world in which it was possible. One is also forced to question how the military caste all over the world is going to defend it when the spell of war is thrown off and the people who pay the taxes and support the governments begin to think in straight lines

### RUSSELL ON RUSSIA.

I AVE you been reading the Charles Edward Russell articles on conditions in Russia since the overthrow of the Czar and the rotten bureaucracy which masqueraded as a government for the millions of Russians? They constitute a most important contribution to contemporaneous history and they merit the careful attention of the serious minded as well as furnish a highly interesting narrative for the casual reader.

As a member of the Root commission to Russia Mr. Russell had exceptional facilities to get at the inside of affairs in Russia and his ample experience and careful permanent policy the trainging young training as a newspaper man made it possible for him to men to the point of where they can make the most of these opportunities. Nothing that has quickly become effective defenders of appeared in any publication in this country on the Russian situation has possessed greater merit and The West Virginian is most fortunate in being able to place these articles ty before its readers. As a piece of journalistic enterprise the series takes rank along side of the most widely advertised efforts of the metropolitan newspapers.

At a meeting which will be held in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce this evening the project of giving a farewell of some kind to the men who will go from Marion county to the Petersburg camp of the National army will be discussed and it is hoped that all who are interested in this matter will attend, for the them with the other boys, or note the time is growing very short.

will erect in this city will be one of the most important ing will have not alone a fine physique, large number of people at good wages and it will be acity to endure greater physical exerin operation throughout the year. A large percentage of the output will be used by local factories, but there will always be a considerable amount going out of town alert, quick to decide, prompt to act; and helping to spread the fame of Fairmont as an in- he will be a better employe, will be dustrial center.

Declaring that the apparent Austrian inspiration of the Pope's peace gesture is evidence that the Teutonic autocracy is coming to its senses, Senator Owen urged in a speech in the Senate yesterday that we help them along this road by multiplying our war efforts. Here thousands more parents would be glad is advice which even the military men will endorse, and to do this if they could afford it. The coming from Oklahoma it is quite notable.

It is reported from Seattle that the organized lumber manufacturers of the northwest have agreed to shut more to make a strong, healthy, manly down their plants until 1918 because of a slump in the and a good citizen than any other time market. Wonder what these men call a slump? If this or money that could be expended. The is their idea of a way to circumvent efforts of the government to bring down the price of lumber to a reasonable figure they will find that price fixing is not the only the "dog tent," will break up the lines arrow Uncle Sam has in his quiver.

Speaking in the Reichstag yesterday Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the new German Imperial Foreign Secretary, among other things said: "It is important to is the value of trained men and that study the psychology of our enemies . . . . so that sharp words may not be said when the ice on the other side is melted and a conciliatory feeling is do more to regenerate manhood than beginning to be shown." But how about the psycholog- any other single agency. If there was ical effect of air raids upon undefended seaside resorts and hospitals which have just finished treating a large body of German wounded?

Unless peace comes very soon the Italian armies will and the government has a duty in the be in Triest. And when that happens all the arguments that Constitution should insist will be on the side of Italy if they have to settle the peace terms by negotiation.

county board.

Bernstorff's nephew a prisoner of war at Verdun and Bernstorff him- Ira's band can turn out and give the self ordered to Constantinople as Ger- drafted men a patriotic concert,

Mayor is said to have declared that the cops will work 300 days in the year to enforce the dog law.

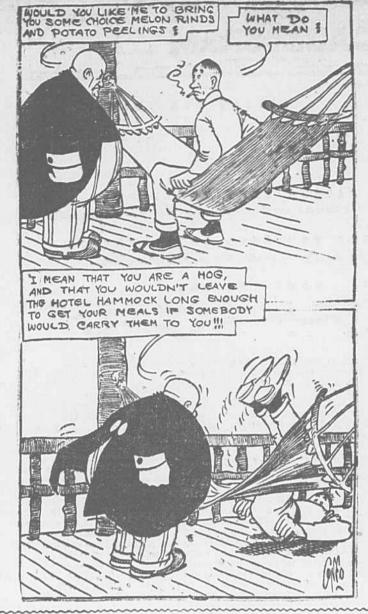
. . . . That allows 13 days for holidaysand they began taking them yesterchines are to be turned to the wall day.

Chicago's American league ball team had a flag raising yesterday. O B is getting down to the level

of chesp vaudeville. There are lots of ways of desecrating the flag that are not mentioned in the army regulations and the fed-

eral statutes. And that is one of them

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Benefits of Military Training.

CHICAGO AUG. 23.—(Editor The West Virginian)—I am glad to see that the subject of universal military training is being discussed throughout the land. If the government has the foresight to take up systematically as a the country, it will not only be invaluable to those taking it, but it will be for generations has been the aim of the best insurance for our future safe-

Writer and speakers upon this subject do not, in my opinion, give suffic-ient emphasis to the benifit the young man will receive from this training. To my mind this is quite as important, if indeed it is not the major reason, for such training. If one needs an ocular | demonstration of what military training does for young men, let him note the fine physique of the boys in khaki upon the streets today and compare change that has taken place in the few months of rigorous dicipline on the The box factory which the Mid-West Box company Mexican border, among the boys he knows. A young man taking his trainto throw off disease, but it will clarify his thinking-it will make him more able to learn more money; he will be better able to direct and supervise men, and will add in a hundred ways to his mental, moral and physical equipment,

Thousands of parents are sending their boys to military schools; they have been doing so for years, notwithstanding it is expensive, and tens of purpose was not training for war-no one thought of that-but training for better life work. Six months or a year in a federal training camp will do bringing together of boys from all walks of life and all parts of the country and establishing the democracy of of clevage that are appearing in our civil life and help to make democracy a reality instead of a sentiment.

Let us hope that one of the things we learn in the great crisis before us we will have the judgement and foresight to make such training a perma nent policy of the government. It will no such thing as war, the rigid discipline and the splendid training and developement acquired, would more than justify the cost. The greatestasset to our country is its citizenship assembling in December, make a per manent provision for the training of young men between eighteen and twenty years of age along the lines worked out in the Chamberlain Bill and if the people throughout the country would If all other plans fail Commissioner take hold of this matter and insist upon it, such a law could be quickly put upon the statute books. Frank C. Logan.

Noon Moon Stares.

KNUTSFORD, La., Aug. 20 .- Knuts ford negroes were so amazed by the sight of the moon shining in mida



ternoon-they thought the world was coming to an end, stopped all work and held prayer meetings in the cot-

Four Hundred of Years coal price which will not allow a prom-Changing Boundaries Folowed Arm of the Strong.

Despite territorial aggression, which most European governments, as evi-denced since the days of Attila or even further back in the dim years before feudal Europe sank into barbarism, the lines of demarcation between kingdoms have been drawn with regard to raciai differences rather than political dissen-Except in the instances of Poland,

the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, and the Italian lands held by Austria, each nation stayed well within its own bounds, and these alien territories held by Russia, Germany and Austria fell to their lot as the fortunes of war,

Territorial acquisition across seas being always a pawn to be won or lost ies, nor does it arouse the smoldering even the smallest portion of the fatherland. To gain a comprehensive idea of this

phase of the war, an angle which will have its bearing in the future settlement of boundary questions, it is but necessary to look over the maps contained in Willis J. Abbot's great book, "The Nations at War." offered to readers of this paper at a great saving from it sregular \$3.00 price. This handsome \$3 volume is profusely illustrated with more than 500 halftone engravings from actual photographs, and contains 428 pages of accurate, authoritative news. information, fact and data right up to the entry of the United States into the conflict. In addition there are 20 color plates of stirring scenes of historic im-

Arrangement having been made with the publisher of this, the first authentic volume on the war from a responsible source, a large part of the first edition of this work has been secured for readers of the West Virginian none of whom should lose any time in securing this valuable and interesting his toric book.

The Cash Discount Voucher, printed elsewhere in this newspaper, explains the special discount plan. Clip and present it today.

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Conference Made This Admission.

(By Associated Press) LONDON, Aug. 24 .- Admission that the treatment of German war prison- terrace. ers in Great Britain was superior to the treatment received in any other country was made by the chief German delegate to the recent conference of British and Germans on war prisoners, according to a statement made by Baron Newton, one of the British delegates, in the House of Commons.

Virtually no complaint was made of the British methods of dealing with war prisoners, Lord Newton added. One impression he derived from his intercourse with the delegates was that, in spite of the German powers of centralization Berlin headquarters diu not know a great deal of what went on. That impression, he said, more or less confirmed what James W. Gerard the late American Ambassador at Berlin, used to tell him, that there was less centralization than was supposed and in its closing words: that the control at Berlin over prison- "Any one wanting m ers of war was nothing like so effective as in this country. He had a strong suspicion that a great deal went on in various German camps of which the central German administration knew

prisoners as the British had, it would be surprising, he said, if they did know all that went on.

## **Editorial Comment** on Current Subjects

COAL PRICES IMMEDIATELY EF-

for coal prescribed by the government saw I 1981 Aug 198 bus deels for become effective at once. Frank Faress, organization, was droted as saking and I. am bid driver Worth did me, I had a stratck of the grippe which left in the suppose which is the suppose which left in the suppose which left in the suppose which is the suppose w cease work as a result of the arbitrary eqt mode apodateve list of maw I's ised wage increase. That is one phase of the situation we had in mind yester day when we remarked that the pricefixing policy on coal did not include any effective means for increasing output. Leading bituminous producers of the country have been called to attend a conference to be held in Pittsburgh next Wednesday to consider the situatiou. Reasonable persons will appreciate the confusion into which the industry has been temporarily thrown. Even the most compliantly disposed producers are uncertain as to just how they must conduct business under the new regulations. Others have been quot-ed as willing to turn their properties over to the government to operate. Every patriotic person will contribute his best efforts to aid in finding a solution for the fuel problem.

The primary object of all food and fuel legislation is to husband existing supplies and stimulate new produc-tion. The question of individual profit by military and naval strategy in the is secondary. If output is increased game of war, does not count so much and illegal hoarding and cornering is as the changing of national boundar- eliminated the price to the conumer resentment experienced in the loss of tions of the ineverable law of supply and demand. What might be called the visible supply of coal in the United States is virtually unlimited. The potential capacity of developed bituminous mines in the United States is largely in excess of normal demand Before the war competition among producers depressed the market to a level where only the best equipped and economically located properties could operate and keep afloat. Today the aggregate output is probably not more than 5 per cent of requirements and distribution of the amount brought



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about ground is hampered by hade-quate transportation facilities. The primary object of the emergency law is yet to be accomplished. It is im-perative that the government on one side representing the consumers, and capital and labor on the other repra-senting producers, should meet the situation squarely in a spirit of fairness and hearty coo-peration. Denunciation German Delegate To Recent by either or both sides will not help. Threats of exercising autocrat power, for secret antagonisms, will not promote the best interests of the whole nation.

> Miss Ruth Baker and Miss Bernia McKinley, of Parkersburg, are the guests of Miss Elsie Welsh, of Rhea

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one wanting me to verify this stateaker-Glossener Co's sheet mill and never miss a day now. Nerv-Worth certainly put me on my feet. Any alep soundly and get rest. I regained my vigor and today am in excellent metalfor and today and the the Whitand before I had taken one half of I purchased a bottle of Nerv-Worth

From the Pittsburgh Gazette Times.

President Wilson yesterday author mois expected ou pah umop untily ised the statement that the new prices edges pad up saw pur into pad up the unit is a constitution of the constitution of t rington, president of the Illinois min- penegues pue snoaleu floa e u; eur ray of facts:

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